

**Dan Bernal**  
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Vice President  
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Commissioner  
**Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.**  
Commissioner  
**Cecilia Chung**  
Commissioner  
**Suzanne Giraud ED.D**  
Commissioner  
**Tessie M. Guillermo**  
Commissioner

**HEALTH COMMISSION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN  
FRANCISCO**

**London N. Breed Mayor  
Department of Public Health**



**Grant Colfax, MD**  
Director of Health  
**Mark Morewitz, M.S.W.**  
Executive Secretary

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**MINUTES**  
**HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Tuesday February 7, 2023 4:00 p.m.**  
**101 Grove Street, Room 300**  
**San Francisco, CA 94102 & via Webex**

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

**Present:** Commissioner Dan Bernal President  
Commissioner Laurie Green, MD, Vice President  
Commissioner Edward A. Chow M.D.  
Commissioner Suzanne Giraud, Ph.D  
Commissioner Tessie Guillermo

**Excused:** Commissioner Cecilia Chung  
Commissioner Susan Belinda Christian, J.D.

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm.

**2) GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Patrick Monette Shaw made verbal comments and submitted the following summary:

Baljeet Sangha claimed on 8/2/22 the recertification goal would add sustainable City positions to assume work of consultant nurse administrators, and evaluation of LHH's new leadership positions pilot would be done along with job postings by December 2022. Commissioner Guillermo asked 8/2/22 for evaluation data of the pilot leadership model and timeline for recruiting LHH positions. A January records request revealed no data provided to Guillermo and no pilot leadership analysis done. That was a huge mistake! Now, CMS' 2/1/23 letter made their expectations explicitly clear, demanding LHH fast-track hiring two Nursing Home Administrators and LHH provide detailed timeline due by February 15 to hire and on-board NHA's rapidly. CMS wants LHH to prioritize and expedite installing "permanent leadership with appropriate nursing home experience." Get rid of Pickens, Sangha, Dentoni, and other SFGH managers in acting LHH positions, along with Jennifer Carton-Wade. They have no experience in nursing home administration.

### 3) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2022.

#### Public Comment:

Patrick Monette Shaw made verbal comments and submitted the following summary:

Regarding these 1/17 minutes, I addressed the Commission's 1/7 minutes, noting Commissioner Guillermo's summary of the LHH-JCC meeting didn't mention category #6 "Comprehensive Care Planning" of the "Root Cause Analysis" Roland Pickens presented discussed comprehensive care plans leading to LHH's decertification. The same inadequate care plans problems in June and July surfaced in the citations CDPH leveled along with \$36,000 in fines for deaths of 12 residents evicted from LHH last June. The same problem surfaced yet again during the December "90-Day Monitoring Survey." CMS'S 2/1/23 extending the pause on transfers to 5/19/23 stated it not only issued an "Immediate Jeopardy" for the Fire Alarm fiasco, CMS also noted even more ongoing "multiple quality of care concerns" causing actual patient harm. CMS warned on 2/1/23 further "Immediate Jeopardy" or "actual harm" findings may trigger CMS into terminating the entire Settlement Agreement. Is Pickens' goal to close LHH? Wake up, Commissioner!

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the January 17, 2023 meeting minutes.

### 4) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Grant Colfax MD, DPH, Director of Health, presented the item.

#### **EXTENDING THE PAUSE OF INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS AND DISCHARGES AT LAGUNA HONDA HOSPITAL**

DPH is pleased to share that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has agreed to our request to continue the pause of involuntary discharges and transfers of Laguna Honda residents until at least May 19, 2023.

Last November, the City and County of San Francisco reached a settlement agreement with CMS that paused the involuntary transfers and discharges of residents of Laguna Honda Hospital initially through February 2, 2023, and now through May 19, 2023, and extended payments through November 13, 2023.

This extension is based on the many months of hard work and dedication to improve our facility. Laguna Honda must continue to improve in order to extend the pause beyond May 19, 2023 and obtain recertification.

During this pause, resident-initiated transfers and discharges will continue to occur, which is a right our residents are entitled to and aligned with hospital policy. Residents whose continued stay at Laguna Honda endangers their safety or the safety of others may also be transferred or discharged during this pause.

As required by the settlement agreement, we are working with CMS to develop a revised closure plan should we have to resume transfers. We are hopeful that we will never have to put this plan into action because of our continued improvements.

#### **ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSE DEATHS DECLINE IN SF FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

Accidental overdose deaths in San Francisco decreased in 2022, according to preliminary data, marking the second consecutive year that drug mortality rates dropped in the City despite climbing rates across the country.

The preliminary data, which is provided by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, indicates that San Francisco recorded 620 accidental drug overdose deaths in the 2022 calendar year, compared to 640 deaths reported in 2021 and 725 in 2020. Black individuals continued to be disproportionately impacted by overdoses. Preliminary data shows that overdose death rates among Blacks is more than five times the citywide rate, on par with 2021. The 2022 data shows a 14 percent decrease from the 2020 number when drug overdose rates

were at all-time high in San Francisco, in large part due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing presence of the deadly synthetic opioid known as fentanyl.

Fentanyl is the leading driver of drug overdose deaths in the United States, as well as San Francisco. Of the 620 deaths in 2022, 72 percent were attributed to fentanyl. A small amount of fentanyl can be fatal and people who use drugs may be unintentionally exposed to it in other drugs such as heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine.

There were 107,622 drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from the 93,655 estimated in 2020, according to the CDC National Center for Health Statistics. The 2022 estimates have not been made available, but national trends show few signs of the crisis abating.

Since fentanyl first became prevalent in local drug supplies in 2018, DPH has been tackling the crisis from multiple angles. Last year, Mayor Breed and DPH created an Office of Overdose Prevention and implemented an Overdose Prevention Plan to coordinate efforts to reduce overdose deaths and mitigate the negative impacts of drug use on individuals and communities.

Expanding access to substance use health care and life-saving medications, training City employees and partners on how to recognize and respond to overdoses and opening more overnight treatment spaces are among the tactics that have demonstratively shown to have made an impact in San Francisco.

DPH continues to expand access to treatment and care for substance use citywide. This year, DPH will open 70 residential step-down beds to offer recovery-settings for people leaving residential substance use disorder treatment and establish weekend hours at the Behavioral Health Access Center to facilitate entry to residential and other substance use disorder treatment.

Across the City, more than 3,200 people received buprenorphine treatment for opioid addiction in 2021, a 12 percent increase from the previous year, and 2,700 individuals received methadone. The Buprenorphine Induction Clinic, located at 1380 Howard St., treated 575 patients with buprenorphine in 2022, a 164 percent increase from the number of patients in 2021.

In 2021, DPH and its community partners distributed more than 33,000 kits of naloxone, the life-saving antidote for opioid overdoses. In 2022, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, which collaborates with DPH in its distribution of the medication, distributed more than 40,000 doses of naloxone alone and reported 5,127 reversals. Additionally, DPH trained more than 2,000 people on how to recognize and respond to an overdose in the last three months of 2022 alone.

DPH will also continue to scale up overdose prevention efforts this year by hiring additional overdose prevention staff, increasing its activities in supportive housing facilities in partnership with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and the DOPE Project, leading naloxone trainings and distribution in collaboration with the Entertainment Commission, and supporting the expansion of treatment for stimulant use disorder.

In 2024, DPH will open a new crisis stabilization unit to provide short-term, urgent care for people experiencing a mental health and/or substance use crisis.

### **SF TAKES STEP TO ALLOW PRIVATELY FUNDED OVERDOSE PREVENTION SITES TO OPEN**

Mayor London N. Breed and Supervisor Hillary Ronen announced local steps the City is taking to address a recently identified permitting barrier to moving forward with a non-city funded Overdose Prevention Site.

As the City has continued to wait for federal guidance around whether it can fund an overdose prevention program with public dollars, conversations with leading non-profits around opening a privately funded site have continued. As part of this process, the City has identified a significant issue to be addressed for a privately funded site to move forward.

In 2020 the Board of Supervisors approved legislation establishing a permitting structure for city-funded overdose prevention programs. This law as written does not allow for any overdose prevention program to open until federal and state legal issues have been resolved, whether it's funded by the City or by private resources. Since that law was enacted, non-profits in New York have opened overdose prevention sites without public funding, and various non-profits in San Francisco have expressed interest in doing the same. San Francisco's current law would not allow them to do so.

To address this issue, Mayor Breed and Supervisor Ronen introduced legislation to repeal the 2020 permitting structure for overdose prevention programs. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, this would allow a non-profit to open a site with private funding before federal and state legal issues are resolved. Mayor Breed has asked President Peskin to expedite the ordinance to repeal the permitting law so that non-profits don't have to wait months for the ordinance to be enacted.

### **CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF NEW MARIA X MARTINEZ HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER**

DPH celebrates the opening of the Maria X Martinez Health Resource Center (MXM), a newly constructed urgent care and transitional primary care clinic named after longtime DPH leader, Maria X Martinez, who dedicated her career to advocating for and providing the highest quality health care to our most vulnerable communities.

Located at 555 Stevenson St., MXM is one of the [San Francisco Health Network's](#) (SFHN) two urgent care clinics and receives approximately 15,000 visits a year. The center specializes in providing multi-disciplinary services to respond to a wide range of medical, psychological and social needs of vulnerable adults in San Francisco, especially people experiencing homelessness. MXM replaces the Tom Waddell Urgent Care Clinic which operated at 50 Ivy St.

MXM offers drop-in urgent care, transitional primary care, dental services, podiatry, follow-up wound care, and medications for substance use addiction treatment. The center includes 10 upgraded exam rooms with an accompanying counseling room, four consultation rooms, four dentistry chairs, a laboratory, office space, and conference rooms for staff.

MXM is part of an important legacy of health services delivering urgent care in San Francisco. The clinic's namesake worked for DPH for 23 years, during which she passionately championed the needs of vulnerable populations. Maria X Martinez focused on building initiatives and developing care models for high-risk populations through new collaborations and system design. A key member of DPH leadership, she served in various roles including Deputy Director of Community Programs, Senior Staff to the Director of Health, Chief Integrity Officer, and the Director of Whole Person Care.

Maria strived to bring a racial and equity lens to create a seamless network of services to engage and meet the complex needs of San Francisco's most vulnerable residents. She passed away in July 2020.

MXM served an immediate need to upgrade and relocate the former Tom Waddell Urgent Care Clinic to more holistically serve clients and ensure patient needs are met. Patients at MXM primarily come from the surrounding South of Market, Tenderloin, and Civic Center neighborhoods. The resource center was delivered on-budget and funded through the DPH General Fund and Certificate of Participation (COP) as well as the Homelessness and Supportive Housing General Obligation (GO) Bond.

The resource center houses the offices of the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT), a mobile team that engages and stabilizes clients on the streets by voluntarily placing them into shelters and housing or connecting them with other resources. It is also comprised of two other Whole Person Integrated Care programs: the San Francisco Street Medicine Team, which provides medical services and assessments to people on the streets; and the Post Overdose Engagement Team, part of the Street Overdose Response Team (SORT) that focuses on overdose prevention for people experiencing homelessness. Both programs utilize MXM as a central hub to support clients into transitional primary care.

#### **DPH's BALJEET SANGHA RECEIVES ACHE HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL AWARD**

The American College of Healthcare Executives announced Baljeet Sangha, FACHE, Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Deputy Director of the San Francisco Health Network, as the recipient of the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award for Young Healthcare Executive of the Year, 2023.

The Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award honors outstanding achievement in the field of healthcare management. It is the highest award given nationally for Board certified healthcare executives under 40, and recipients must be a Fellow of ACHE and hold a CEO or COO position in a healthcare organization.

Baljeet is the first ever healthcare executive from a public health system to receive this award. Baljeet will receive his award March 21 at the Malcolm T. MacEachern Memorial Lecture and Luncheon during ACHE's 66th Congress on Healthcare Leadership in Chicago.

DPH is extremely grateful for Baljeet's dedication to the health and wellbeing of all San Franciscans and we are proud to see him receive this well-deserved national recognition.

#### **DPH DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL RECEIVES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS FUNDING FROM CDC**

The Disease Prevention and Control (DPC) Branch within the Population Health Division has received its 3<sup>rd</sup> year of CDC funding to supplement our core STD prevention grant, PCHD (Program Collaboration for Health Departments). The \$2.2 million/year PCHD supplement is intended to strengthen the Disease Intervention Services (DIS) workforce, improve outbreak preparedness and response, and advance health equity. DIS staff do the critical work of case investigation, contact tracing, partner services and linkage to care for communicable diseases of public health importance such as TB, HIV, syphilis, measles, MPOX and many others. They are an essential part of public health, whose work improves health outcomes and limits ongoing transmission of communicable diseases.

With this award, DPC has launched a new and innovative team, RADR (Reserve for Accelerated Disease Response). The RADR team is supporting DIS onboarding, training, and retention; deepening relationships with partnering departments and community; organizing and facilitating tabletop simulations to strengthen outbreak response plans; and working to advance health equity within the DIS workforce.

#### **ZUCKERBURG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL (ZSFG) CELEBRATES 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPIATE TREATMENT OUTPATIENT PROGRAM**

Since its inception, the Opiate Treatment Outpatient Program (OTOP) at ZSFG has utilized a combination of medication treatment, counseling services, harm reduction services, psychiatric care, specialty HIV care, and on-site hepatitis C treatment to address the many needs of our community.

On January 26, 2023, this DPH/UCSF partnership celebrated 50 years of providing care to all.

Providers and patients gathered to commemorate the milestone in the courtyard of building 80/90 under the 100-year-old cedar tree that has stood in its place since the first treatment was provided at Ward 93 as a symbol of serenity. ZSFG CEO Dr. Susan Ehrlich joined the current and former DSAAM directors Dr. D. Andy

Tompkins and Dr. Jim Sorensen who all shared their thoughts, experiences, and gratitude for Ward 93. A former patient gave thanks for the compassionate care they received there.

Located in Ward 93 at ZSFG, OTOP provides methadone detoxification and maintenance to heroin dependent clients in conjunction with medical and psychiatric services. Since the onset of the AIDS epidemic, OTOP has been involved in combating HIV among injection drug users through research, prevention, and medical care. Ward 93/OTOP was designated as the county methadone treatment provider for the most medically and psychiatrically compromised people with opiate use disorder. The COVID-19 public health emergency did not slow down OTOP, which moved from inside the ZSFG campus to vans stationed at the edge of campus, so they could keep serving their patients. They reduced barriers to treatment and were able to see more people seeking treatment.

Congratulations, OTOP on reaching this impressive milestone in your history!

### **MARKING THE 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ZSFG WARD 86**

The Ward 86 HIV Clinic in the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine at ZSFG celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on January 25. The clinic opened its doors in January 1983, 18 months after the first CDC report of AIDS.

In the early 1980s, the HIV epidemic spread rapidly. It was a frightening time, and the doctors, nurses, researchers, and students at DPH, ZSFG, and UCSF responded to the epidemic by immediately mobilizing care for infected individuals. The pioneering "**San Francisco Model of HIV care**" was established, emphasizing interdisciplinary care with a team of doctors, nurses, social workers, case managers, psychiatrists, addiction specialists, and nutritionists providing medical and social services in a single facility in close collaboration with community organizations. This model of care has been adopted around the world.

Today, Ward 86 serves as the largest clinic in the San Francisco Health Network, exclusively serving HIV-infected patients, and is a world-renowned center of HIV clinical expertise, teaching and research. At the anniversary event held in ZSFG Carr Auditorium and organized and hosted by Dr. Monica Gandhi, DPH Director Dr. Grant Colfax joined healthcare and civic leaders, including Division Chief Dr. Diane Havlir, UCSF Chancellor Sam Hawgood, ZSFG CEO Dr. Susan Ehrlich, Health Commission President Dan Bernal, Senator Scott Weiner, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman, UCSF Chair of Medicine Bob Wachter, and UCSF Chief of Medicine Neil Powe to celebrate.

### **VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM**

The DPH Environmental Health Branch (EHB) maintains a Vector Control Program wherein staff work continually to prevent vectors of disease like mosquitos, mice/rodents, bed bugs and other pests from harming the health of the residents of San Francisco.

The EHB staff work collaboratively with community members and participates in community meetings to provide updates, advice, and educational materials to residents. EHB's Senior Inspector Nader Shatara recently educated residents on the behaviors and habitats of roof rats, sewer rats, and house mice, and provided information on how to prevent them from making homes at the Glen Park Association's January meeting.

Senior Inspector Shatara has been instrumental in coordinating the various City departments involved in rodent control which can include Police, BART, Recreation and Parks, and Public Utilities. Controlling rodents often requires the cooperation of various City agencies, along with local businesses and residents. Thank you to Nader for extending his experience and professionalism improve the health and safety of our San Francisco communities!

## **DPH RECOGNIZES BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Black History Month offers a chance to celebrate the many Black heroes, achievements, and events that have been integral to the shaping of America's history. It is also a time to remember and honor the reality that Black people in this nation have had to overcome structural and institutional barriers along every step of the way. The 2023 Black History Month theme, *Black Resistance*, explores how African Americans have resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms. This Black History Month, the DPH Black/African American Health Initiative (BAAHI), a program of the Office of Health Equity, will host four Equity Learning Series discussions on the theme of Black Resistance, and celebrate the accomplishments of those who helped us come this far. Those and additional special events are highlighted below:

**Date:** February 3

**Theme:** Cup of Gospel in the Chapel

**Time:** 12:00pm

**Location:** Laguna Honda Hospital Chapel

**Date:** February 7

**Theme:** BAAHI ELS, Randolph, Rustin, & the Origins of the March on Washington

**Time:** 9:00-10:30am

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom) <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvfu6hrDsqGtL-3dbqzxeImhTo7JLWEy5Z>

**Details:** The March on Washington of 1963 is an enduring and widely known event of the Civil Rights movement. But the March has its roots in an earlier planned March on Washington that didn't happen. In 1941, labor leader A. Philip Randolph began planning a gathering aimed at many of the same goals as the eventual 1963 March.

**Date:** February 7

**Theme:** The 2023 Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. "A Celebration of Survival"

**Time:** 5:00-7:00 PM

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom) <https://sfaf.zoom.us/j/84023695774>

**Details:** In the nearly 43 years since the first HIV cases were diagnosed, Black/African Americans continue to over represent people diagnosed, living with, and dying of HIV related illness. Yet, many both HIV-positive and HIV-negative Black/African Americans have survived. This event will offer for people to share their stories of survival and what can be taught to future generations.

**Date:** February 14

**Theme:** BAAHI ELS, How an FBI Poster Became a Black Power Symbol/Angela Davis on continuing to fight for change

**Time:** 9:00-10:30am

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom) <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tceqtrT8qHtZtmDSjHwWSuREFVxhAQ4s>

**Details:** An FBI wanted poster, intended to make a criminal out of activist and academic Angela Davis, transformed her into a symbol of Black Power and liberation. The activist, professor and writer reflects on five decades advocating against oppression, white supremacy and police violence

**Date:** February 15

**Theme:** Unity Walk

**Time:** 2:00pm

**Location:** The Atrium, Laguna Honda Hospital

**Date:** February 16

**Theme:** Anti-Racism in The Workplace

**Time:** 12:00-1:30pm

**Location:** 25 Van Ness, Suite 610

**Details:** This workshop is designed to continue the process of normalizing discussions of race and racism by exploring the roots of race and racism and gaining insights into how we individually and collectively contribute to systemic racism. We will also identify doable anti-racist actions that we can implement in the workplace.

**Date:** February 17

**Theme:** The Black Family in San Francisco: Stories of Resilience and Resistance

**Time:** 12:00-2:00pm

**Location:** 25 Van Ness, Room 610

**Details:** How does one create a healthy Black Family? What does the data show and what does the community tell us? This forum allows for exploration from academics and community members of stories and strategies for success in creating healthy Black families.

**Date:** February 17

**Theme:** Steppin' in Unity (dance)

**Time:** 12:00pm

**Location:** Laguna Honda Hospital Chapel

**Date:** February 21

**Theme:** BAAHI ELS, Mari Copeny - "Lil Miss Flint" 2020 Power to Inspire Honoree

**Time:** 12:00-1:30pm

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom) <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZl5d-uvqjMiHtx-vpEtmFeful-KP5YEPCF>

**Details:** Mari Copeny led the fight to provide clean water for the community of Flint, Michigan, and beyond. Since 2016, Mari has fundraised over \$500,000 that has impacted over 25,000 children. These funds have gone towards supporting students in getting school supplies, toys, bikes, clean water, and other resources needed to ensure a fulfilled and healthy life.

**Date:** February 21

**Theme:** Poetry Slam

**Time:** 12:00pm

**Location:** Laguna Honda Hospital Chapel

**Date:** February 22

**Theme:** Unity Program

**Time:** 2:00pm

**Location:** Simon Theatre, Laguna Honda Hospital

**Date:** February 23

**Theme:** BAAHI/ELS, John Lewis and Bryan Stevenson: The fight for civil rights and freedom

**Time:** 9:00-10:30am

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sce2urjMvHtAFAn1hiNS13IK1aNTwzr3K>

**Details:** Civil rights leader and longtime US congressman John Lewis spent his life fighting for freedom and justice for everyone. In this illuminating conversation with lawyer and activist Bryan Stevenson, Lewis discusses the essential importance of voting, shares encouraging words of wisdom for the generation of young people currently organizing in the struggle for racial justice.

**Date:** February 24

**Theme:** Population Health Division, Hidden Heroes (Around the World)

**Time:** 12:00-1:00pm

**Location:** Virtual (Teams)

**Details:** Black History Month is an observance of the history of the African diaspora in numerous countries outside of Africa. This year's theme Black History Month: Hidden Heroes (Around The World) is to recognize and celebrate our Black heroes who are not often talked about, such as Arturo Schomburg, Gaspar Yanga, Victoria "Toya" Montou, and many more that have given themselves to a cause.

For additional information on any of the aforementioned events, please contact: [BAAHI@sfdph.org](mailto:BAAHI@sfdph.org).

**MPX UPDATE**

LOCATION	TOTAL CASES AS OF 2/2/23 (probable and confirmed)
San Francisco	844
California	5,719
U.S.	30,123
Worldwide	85,536

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

As of 2/2:

- San Francisco’s 7-day rolling average of new COVID cases per day is 63 and 48 people are hospitalized, including 4 in the ICU.
- Eighty-six percent of all SF residents have been vaccinated and 65% have received booster dose(s).

**[DPH in the News](#)**

**Public Comment:**

Patrick Monette Shaw made verbal comments and submitted the following summary:

After placing multiple public requests since December 1 to obtain the initial 12/1/22 “Root Cause Analysis,” its now comical hearing Dr. Colfax just assert DPH thinks it was important [in the interests of] transparency ... to ensure people have access to multiple documents [including the two RCA’s and draft Action Plan]. It’s unfortunate CMS is fed up with LHH’s delay. CMS wrote on 2/1/23 LHH’s “draft revised closure plan has not been approved. CMS, CDPH, and the California Department of Health Care Services provided feedback on Laguna Honda’s plan on January 13 and 18, 2023, and we have not yet received a revised version in response.” CMS warned: “If Laguna Honda does not timely complete its revised closure plan, CMS reserves the right to pursue all remedies and enforcement measures under the settlement/systems improvement agreement “including CMS’ “... right to terminate the [Settlement] agreement pursuant to Paragraph 3.”

Dr. Teresa Palmer stated that in her review of the CMS report, they did not accept a lot of work already completed and did not like staff already hired. She wants to know by the next LHH JCC that a national search is going on. It would be good to find someone outside of the DPH for this position. She noted that ZSFSG staff had to help out for the LHH fire and safety issues. She knows there is a huge amount of work to do. She wants to know how things will be fixed.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Chow thanked Dr. Colfax for his report and appreciates the releases of the LHH-related documents. He noted that the accidental overdose death data indicates that the Black population is disproportionately impacted. He asked how the DPH is addressing this issue in the Black population. Director Colfax stated that the DPH is striving to reduce deaths due to overdoes and to address relevant inequities. He

noted that Dr. Hillary Kunins can follow up on this question during her next update to the full Health Commission.

Commissioner Chow noted that there continues to be a rodent problem in Glen Park, stemming from an individual who is providing food to birds and other animals in the area. He noted that a recent news article indicated that the DPH cannot do anything about this individual. Director Colfax stated that city agencies are engaged in a shared approach to the situation. The DPH is engaging with standard protocols including offering health interventions such as behavioral health treatment.

Commissioner Guillermo noted that the Director's Report is not dominated by COVID or MPX, which have taken the focus for the past 3 years. She is pleased to see the DPH making progress on other important public health issues. She is also pleased to hear that CMS paused mandatory LHH patient transfers. She congratulated Baljeet Sangha for receiving the Robert S. Hudgens Memorial Award for Young Healthcare Executive of the Year, noting the incredibly complex work he has put into LHH in addition to his San Francisco Network duties. She also recognized the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ward 86, celebrating the incredible history of leadership of the DPH in HIV prevention, research, and treatment.

Commissioner Bernal appreciates the release of LHH-related documents. He asked for clarification that the root cause analysis found fault based on regulatory surveys conducted before LHH had engaged in its recent quality improvement work. He also congratulated Ms. Sangha for being recognized for his outstanding work and acknowledged all the LHH team for its huge amount of work. He also asked if community partners are distributing fentanyl strips. Finally, he attended the Ward 86 fortieth anniversary and acknowledged the incredibly impactful work of providers and advocates during the previous decades. Director Colfax stated that community partners are distributing fentanyl strips and implementing syringe access sites.

## **5) HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY QUARTERLY REVIEW**

Eric Raffin, DPH CIO, and Jeff Scarafia, DPH Deputy CIO, presented the item.

### Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Bernal asked if assisting DPH-partner community-based organizations transition to EPIC is in the DPH budget. Mr. Scarafia stated that the costs for assisting community-based partners has been deferred.

Commissioner Bernal asked the impact of the approximately 20% vacancy rate in DPH IT. Mr. Scarafia stated that it is challenging for existing staff. When EPIC rollouts are completed, staff are not able to use the systems as much as intended, which impacts DPH outcomes.

Commissioner Bernal noted the City's hiring bureaucracy is very slow and asked if there are other factors limiting hiring of DPH IT staff. Mr. Scarafia stated that DPH IT systems are not unique; most candidates can do work similar to the DPH anywhere and most prefer a 100% remote work schedule and higher salaries.

Commissioner Green asked if it is possible to capitalize on recent layoffs of local tech companies. She also asked for more information regarding the work being done at LHH. Mr. Raffin stated that it is infrequent that people in the tech industry switch to a government job due to differences in salary and work environments. The DPH IT department is seeking mission driven individuals who align with the values of the DPH. Regarding work at LHH, he said the road to success includes support at the unit level so staff can rely on a help chain, supervisor or coach, who can assist in the moment. IT is currently working with nurses and training super-users to provide support.

Commissioner Green asked if DPH gets any direct onsite training from EPIC. Mr. Raffin stated that prior to EPIC, LHH was not using an electronic health record and noted the transition was one of systems change. He also noted that because LHH patients tend to have long stays, care plans must last for a very long time, which is

different than other DPH sites using EPIC. He noted that EPIC provided initial training and the DPH EPIC team now provides its own superuser trainings.

**6) DPH FY23-24 AND FY24-25 DPH BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Jenny Louie, DPH Chief Financial Officer, presented the item.

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Chow asked if the budget includes COVID treatment funds since the federal funding for this will end. Ms. Louie stated that the DPH is monitoring the situation; currently it is unclear of the cost of COVID-19 treatments without the federal contributions. She noted that there is \$3.7M in the budget to assist with cost of COVID-related pharmaceuticals.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the DPH FY23-24 and FY24-25 Budget.

**7) RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)**

Mark Morewitz, Health Commission Executive Secretary, presented the item.

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the resolution. (See attachment)

**8) FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Commissioner Chow chaired the Finance and Planning Committee and noted that the committee reviewed all the items on the Consent Calendar and recommended that the full Health Commission approve them.

**9) CONSENT CALENDAR**

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously approved the following items:

- **FEBRUARY 2023 CONTRACTS REPORT**
- **REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW CONTRACT WITH HEALTHRIGHT 360 TO TRANSITION TWO EXISTING PROGRAMS FROM BAKER PLACES (JOE HEALY AND ACCEPTANCE PLACE) TO HR360 WITH THE CONTINUED GOAL OF REDUCING THE IMPACT OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER AND ADDICTION ON THE TARGET POPULATIONS**
- **THE FOLLOWING ZSFG-RELATED ITEMS WERE RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL BY THE ZSFG JCC:**
  - ***Appointment of Dr. Joseph Cuschieri as the new ZSFG Surgery Service Chief. (Dr. Cuschieri has been the Interim Chief of ZSFG Surgery Service since September 2021 and ZSFG Trauma Medical Director since March 2021.)***
  - ***ZSFG Radiology Rules and Regulations***
  - ***ZSFG Dermatology Rules and Regulations***
  - ***ZSFG Credentials Committee Standardized Procedures for Medicine***

**10) OTHER BUSINESS:**

This item was not discussed.

**11) JOINT CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Green chaired the January 24, 2023 ZSFG JCC meeting and noted that the committee discussed the ZSFG-related items on the consent calendar, addition to reviewing the committee's standard reports. She added that the committee also discussed the hospital's strategic planning update.

**12) JANUARY 17, 2023 COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Commissioner Giraud, chair, stated that at the January 17, 2023 meeting, the committee reviewed and discussed updates from the San Francisco Health Network and the DPH Tuberculosis program.

**13) CLOSED SESSION**

A) Public comments on all matters pertaining to the Closed Session. (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.15).

B) Vote on whether to hold a Closed Session in relation to item 3.D below. (Action Item)

C) Vote on whether to hold a closed session in relation to item 3.E below regarding pending litigation and to assert the attorney-client privilege in relation to that closed session discussion. Motion that the Health Commission convene in closed session with the City Attorney for the purpose of conferring with, or receiving advice from, the City Attorney regarding existing litigation to which the City and County of San Francisco is a party and proposed settlements as described below and whether to assert the attorney-client privilege in relation to those matters. Discussion in open session concerning these matters would likely and unavoidably prejudice the position of the City in the pending litigation matters listed below. (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d); and California Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(3)). (Action Item)

D) Closed Session Pursuant to Evidence Code Sections 1156, 1156.1, 1157, 1157.5, 1157.6, and 1157.7; Health and Safety Code Section 1461; San Francisco Administrative Code Sections 67.5, 67.8, 67.8-1, and 67.10; and California Constitution, Article I, Section 1.

**FOR ACTION: CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION OF THE MEDICAL STAFF OF THE ZUCKERBERG SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND TRAUMA CENTER REGARDING THE INVESTIGATION OF AN AFFILIATED PROFESSIONAL**

**RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

1. If Closed Session is complete, discussion and vote to elect whether to disclose any portion of the Closed Session discussion that is not confidential under Federal or State law, The Charter, or Non-Waivable Privilege (San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a).) (Action item)
2. If Closed Session is complete, possible report on action taken in Closed Session (Government Code Sections 54957.1(a) and 54957.7(b) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(b)).

Action Taken: The Health Commission unanimously voted to not disclose discussions held in closed session.

**14) ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51pm.

**Health Commission  
City and County of San Francisco  
Resolution No. 23-01**

**RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT  
CODE SECTION 54953(e)**

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 54953(e) empowers local policy bodies to convene by teleconferencing technology during a proclaimed state of emergency under the State Emergency Services Act so long as certain conditions are met; and

WHEREAS, In March, 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency in California in connection with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic, and that state of emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, On February 25, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) declared a local emergency, and on March 6, 2020 the City’s Health Officer declared a local health emergency, and both those declarations also remain in effect; and

WHEREAS, On March 11 and March 23, 2020, the Mayor issued emergency orders suspending select provisions of local law, including sections of the City Charter, that restrict teleconferencing by members of policy bodies; and

WHEREAS, Consistent with the Mayor’s orders and State law, the Health Commission met remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic through March 6, 2022; and

WHEREAS, On February 10, 2022, the Mayor issued an emergency order that (1) requires decision-making boards and commissions established in the Charter (with the exception of the Board of Supervisors) to hold meetings in person at a physical location where members of the public may attend and provide comment, (2) allows members of those boards and commissions to participate remotely in the in-person meetings for COVID-related health reasons, (3) allows but does not require subcommittees of those boards and commissions to meet in person at a physical location where members of the public may attend and provide comment, and (4) prohibits all other policy bodies (with the exception of the Board of Supervisors and its committees) from meeting in person under any circumstances, with limited exceptions; and

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that amended the Brown Act to allow local policy bodies to continue to meet by teleconferencing during a state of emergency without complying with restrictions in State law that would otherwise apply, provided that the policy bodies make certain findings at least once every 30 days; and

WHEREAS, While federal, State, and local health officials emphasize the critical importance of vaccination (including a booster once eligible) and consistent mask-wearing, regardless of vaccination status, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City’s Health Officer has issued at least one order (Health Officer Order No. C19-07y, available online at [www.sfdph.org/healthorders](http://www.sfdph.org/healthorders)) and one directive (Health Officer Directive No. 2020-33i, available online at [www.sfdph.org/directives](http://www.sfdph.org/directives)) that continue to recommend measures to promote safety for indoor gatherings, including vaccination, masking, improved ventilation, and other measures, in certain contexts; and

WHEREAS, The California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (“Cal/OSHA”) has promulgated Section 3205 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, which requires most employers in California, including in the City, to train and instruct employees about measures that can decrease the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Without limiting any requirements under applicable federal, state, or local pandemic-related rules, orders, or directives, the City’s Department of Public Health, in coordination with the City’s Health Officer, has advised that for group gatherings indoors, such as meetings of boards and commissions, people can increase safety and greatly reduce risks to the health and safety of attendees from COVID-19 by maximizing ventilation, wearing well-fitting masks regardless of vaccination status (and as strongly recommended for everyone by the State of California’s indoor masking order and Health Officer Order No. C19-07y), encouraging vaccination (including a booster as soon as eligible), staying home when sick or when experiencing any COVID-19 symptom, discouraging consumption of food or beverages in the meeting, following good hand hygiene practices, and making informed choices when gathering with people whose vaccination status is not known; and

WHEREAS, the Health Commission will begin meeting in person consistent with the Mayor’s February 10, 2022 order, allowing members to participate by video from a separate location for COVID-related health reasons and providing members of the public an opportunity to observe and provide public comment either in person or remotely; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Health Commission finds as follows:

1. As described above, the State of California and the City remain in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this meeting, the Health Commission has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
2. As described above, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting meetings of this body and its committees in person without allowing certain members of this body to attend remotely would present imminent risks to the health or safety of certain attendees due to COVID-19, and the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of those members to meet safely in person; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for at least the next 30 days, the Health Commission will hold in-person meetings, with some members possibly appearing remotely. If all members of the Health Commission are unable to attend in person for COVID-related health reasons, then the Health Commission will hold the meeting remotely without providing an in-person meeting location. If the Health Commission votes to allow it and appropriate space is available, the Health Commission’s subcommittees may hold in-person meetings as well, or alternatively, the subcommittees may hold meetings exclusively by teleconferencing technology (and not by any in-person meetings or any other meetings with public access to the places where any policy body member is present for the meeting). All meetings of the Health Commission and its committees will provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the body and will otherwise occur in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of parties and the members of the public attending the meeting via teleconferencing; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Executive Secretary of the Health Commission is directed to place a resolution substantially similar to this resolution on the agenda of a future meeting of the Health Commission within the

next 30 days. If the Health Commission does not meet within the next 30 days, the Executive Secretary is directed to place a such resolution on the agenda of the next meeting of Health Commission.

I hereby certify that the San Francisco Health Commission at its meeting on February 7, 2023, adopted the foregoing resolution

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Mark Morewitz, MSW  
Health Commission Executive Secretary